

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PFOR, MT, FR, GW, UK, EEC

SUBJECT: MINTOFF REPORTS TO PARLIAMENT ON HIS VISIT
TO PARIS, BONN AND LONDON

REF: VALLETTA 1382 (NOTAL); 1401

1. GOM PRIME MINISTER MINTOFF RETURNED TO MALTA
DECEMBER 11 FROM HIS FOUR-DAY TRIP TO FRANCE,
WEST GERMANY AND THE UNITED KINGDOM. AS IS HIS
CUSTOM, MINTOFF READ A PREPARED STATEMENT TO
PARLIAMENT ON DECEMBER 15 ABOUT HIS TRIP. THE
TEXT OF THE STATEMENT WAS AS FOLLOWS:

2. "MALTESE DELEGATION'S VISIT TO PARIS AND BONN

"A DELEGATION COMPOSED OF DR. EDGAR MIZZI,
ATTORNEY GENERAL; MR. JOE ATTARD KINGSWELL, ROVING
AMBASSADOR; MR. ALBERT MIZZI, CHAIRMAN OF AIR MALTA
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AND SEA MALTA; AND MYSELF VISITED PARIS AND BONN

BETWEEN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7 AND THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11.

"IN PARIS THE MALTESE DELEGATION, IN ADDITION TO A MEETING WITH MR. FRANCIS FABRE, U.T.A. CHAIRMAN, HAD TALKS WITH THE FRENCH PRESIDENT, M. GISCARD D'ESTAING AND WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, M. SAUVAGNARGUES. AT THIS MEETING, WHICH LASTED ABOUT AN HOUR, WE COULD SEE HOW CLOSE ARE THE VIEWS AND POLICIES OF THE MALTESE AND FRENCH GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THE MEDITERRANEAN. THE FRENCH PRESIDENT ALSO TOLD US THAT THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT WAS LIFTING THE RESERVATION TO THE GERMAN PROPOSAL FOR AGREEMENT ON THE FINANCIAL AID TO BE GIVEN TO MALTA BY THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY. WE WERE INFORMED THAT THIS RESERVATION WAS LIFTED OFFICIALLY AT THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HELD ON DECEMBER 10, 1975.

"AFTER DISCUSSING THE NEED FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN MALTA AND FRANCE, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS SHOULD CONSIDER WAYS OF STRENGTHENING THESE RELATIONS. THE FRENCH PRESIDENT INFORMED US ALSO THAT HE HAD JUST APPROVED A GIFT TO MALTA OF ABOUT TWO THOUSAND TONS OF WHEAT.

"IN GERMANY THE MALTESE DELEGATION HAD TALKS WITH FOUR GERMAN GOVERNMENT MINISTERS, I.E. HANS DIETRICH GENSCHER, FEDERAL FOREIGN MINISTER; JOSEPH ERTL, THE FEDERAL MINISTER OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY AND TWO STATE MINISTERS IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HANS- JURGEN WISCHNEWSKI AND KARL MOERSCH.

"THE MALTESE DELEGATION ALSO HAD MEETINGS WITH THE CHAIRMAN OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY, WILLY BRANDT, AND WITH MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION. THERE WERE ALSO MANY OTHER MEETINGS WITH GERMAN INDUSTRIALISTS, INCLUDING DR. ERNST MOMMSEN, THE KRUPPS CHAIRMAN.

"WE DISCUSSED WITH THE GERMAN INDUSTRIALISTS THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MANUFACTURE OF STEEL AND ALUMINIUM PRODUCTS, THE MAINTENANCE OF EQUIPMENT USED ON PROJECTS IN NORTH AFRICA BY GERMAN FIRMS AND OTHER INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS WHICH COULD BE SET UP IN MALTA.

"ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL AID FOR THE SETTING UP OF IMPORTANT AGRICULTURAL AND WATER CONSERVATION PROJECTS WERE DISCUSSED WITH GERMAN GOVERNMENT

OFFICIALS.

"THE MALTESE DELEGATION DISCUSSED WITH TGERMAN MINISTERS, AND WITH THE SAME OFFICIALS OF THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT, THE GRANTING OF COWS TO SUBSTITUTE THE LOSSES SUFFERED IN MALTA IN THE RECENT OUTBREAK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE AND THE GRANTING OF TWO SMALL PLANES TO HELP IN SEA RESCUE OPERATIONS AND IN ANTI-SMUGGLING PATROLS IN TERRITORIAL WATERS. CONSIDERATION WAS ALSO GIVEN TO THE USE OF THE LOAN PROMISED BY THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT DURING THE NEGOTIAIONS WITH THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN 1972 AND WHICH WAS SIGNED RECENTLY. MORE INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS AGREEMENT WILL BE GIVEN TO THE HOUSE LATER ON.

"THE MALTESE DELEGATION ALSO HAD DISCUSSI S WITH THE FEDERAL MINISTERS ON THE INTERNATINAL SITUATION, PARTICULARLY THE SITUATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN.

"AT THE MEETING WITH WILLY BRANDT, CHAIRMAN OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST PARTY, WE SPOKE ON THE SITUATION IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL AND ON THE GENERAL INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. WITH THE RESPRESENTATIVES OF THE FRIEDRIH EBERT FOUNDATION WE CONSIDERED GREATER COOPERATION IN THE CULTURAL SECTOR.

"I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO US AND I WISH TO THANK THEM FOR THE OFFICIAL BANQUETS WE HAD WITH MINISTER WISCHNEWSKI, WITH MINISTER ERTL AND WITH THE DIRECTORS OF THE FRIEDRICH EBERT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOUNDATION. THESE BANQUESTS WERE NOT MERELY SOCIAL OCCASIONS BUT AN OCCASION ALS FOR US TO CONTINUE OUR WORK. I THANK PATICULARLY FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER FOR MEETING US AT 8 A.M., AT A WORKING BREAKFAST, ALTHOUGH HE HAD ONLY JUST RETURNED TO GERMANY AND WAS DUE TO ATTEND A CABINET MEETING AN HOUR LATER.

"THE MALTESE GOVERNMENT IS HAPPY AT THE WAY COOPERATION IS STEADILY GROWING BETWEEN THE GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLII AND THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA."

3. FOLLOWING MINTOFF'S STATEMENT, THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITON NATIONALIST PARTY (VINCENT TABONE) ASKED WHY THE FRIEDRICH EBERT FOUNDATION

SHOULD BE COOPERATING WITH MALTA IN THE "CULTURAL" FIELD (RATHER THAN THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT), SINCE IT WAS GENEALLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS FOUNDATION WAS "THE DIFFUSION OF SOCIALIST IDEOLOGY." THIS LED TO A TYPICALLY-ACRIMONIOUS EYCHANGE BETWEEN THE NATIONALISTS AND THE LABORIES CONCERNING "SOCIALIS"VERSUS "CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC" POLITICAL PHILOSOPHIES, WHICH SHED LITTLE LIGHT ON THE RESULTS OF MINOTFF'S TRIP, BUT WAS ANOTHER REFLECTION OF THE SHORT FUSES ON WHICH BOTH PARTIES ARE OPERAING AS THE TIME FOR THE MALTESE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION APPROACHES.

4. COMMENT: A SIGNIFICANT OMISSION FROM MINTOFF'S REPORT WAS THE FACT THAT HE ALSO WENT TO LONDON. BEFORE HE LEFT, HIS TRIP HAD BEEN REPORTED PUBLICLY HERE AS ONE TO "...FRANCE, WEST GEMANY AND ENGLAND FOR TALKS WITH THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS..." HTWEVER, SINCE MINOTFF WAS UNSUCCESSFUL IN HIS EFFORTS TO SEE PRIME MINISTER WILSON, HE CUT SHORT HIS SCHEDULED TIME IN LONDON AND WHEN HE RETURNED THE TRIP WAS REFERRED TO IN THE PRESS AS ONLY ONE TT "PARIS AND BONN". THE OPPOSITION NATIONALIST PARTY FAILED TO TAKE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TWIT MINTOFF ABOUT THIS, HOWEVER, IN THE PARLIAMENTARY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEBATE. SMITH

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